



From: the **Sonoma County Abalone Network (SCAN)**, the only organization devoted solely to the conservation of the abalone resource and fishery on the north coast.

SONOMA COUNTY ABALONE NETWORK

RE: POSITION LETTER ON NORTH CENTRAL COAST MLPA

Date: February 5th, 2008

To: North Coast Regional Stakeholders Group

Black Point. SCAN will support the State Marine Reserve and the State Marine Conservation Area as pictured in Proposal 2 (JD) and the State Marine Conservation Area, which is shown in 2 (JD) as a State Marine Park, at Salt Point, providing it is open to Recreational take, and excludes only Commercial take. We do not support a State Marine Park in this area. **State Marine Parks require additional bureaucracy and coordination with the State Parks and Recreation Commission, and the Fish & Game Commission. The same purpose can be accomplished with a State Marine Conservation Area, prohibiting commercial take.**

We will support the existing State Marine Reserve at Gerstle Cove, if it is to be retained, and excludes Commercial take. **SCAN will oppose any State Marine Reserve in the Salt Point area** from 38° 30', as a South boundary, just below Ft Ross Campground, to 38° 38'. In the North, just above Horseshoe Cove. This area is our main Public access. There are many areas both North and South of our access area, which are Natural Marine Reserves created by Lack of Public access. These areas are created by large amounts of Private Property, Cliffs, distance from roads, distance from inflatable and kayak access. Our access areas are relatively small. To remove any of our limited access would unduly concentrate effort on the remaining areas. With a relatively immobile resource, like Abalone, concentration of effort would, absolutely, have a negative impact on the Resource. We have properly managed this resource for over 50 years. On average, we still have approximately 8000 Abalone per hectare. We have cut our bag limits from 10 per day, to 7, to 5, to 4, to 4 and 100 per year, and now to 3 and 24 per year, to manage the resource for abundance. Keeping the very limited access we have, is essential for proper management of the Resource. This is our area of primary concern.

SCAN believes that all the proposals for the **Pt. Arena State Marine Reserve** are too large, and ought to be modified more like the State Marine Reserve and State Marine Conservation Area as pictured in Proposal 3 (TC). Stornetta should never be included in a State Marine Reserve since **\$1 Million Dollars of Sport Fish Restoration Act Funds-- "Tackle Tax" - Money, Fisherman's Money**, was used to purchase Stornetta. Claims that the area has already been "picked out" are false, according to onsite observation by local abalone divers. This is an excellent spot for shore anglers seeking solitude and good fishing.

Russian River: We can support a State Marine Conservation Area, as in Proposal 3 (TC), that would allow for the take of Abalone and Rockfish. The take of Abalone or Rock Fish does not impede returning Salmon. If this State Marine Conservation Area were to be proposed as a State Marine Reserve, we would support it as long as it eliminated any State Marine Reserve in the Salt Point or Black Point area

Respectfully,
Milo Vukovich, President
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